

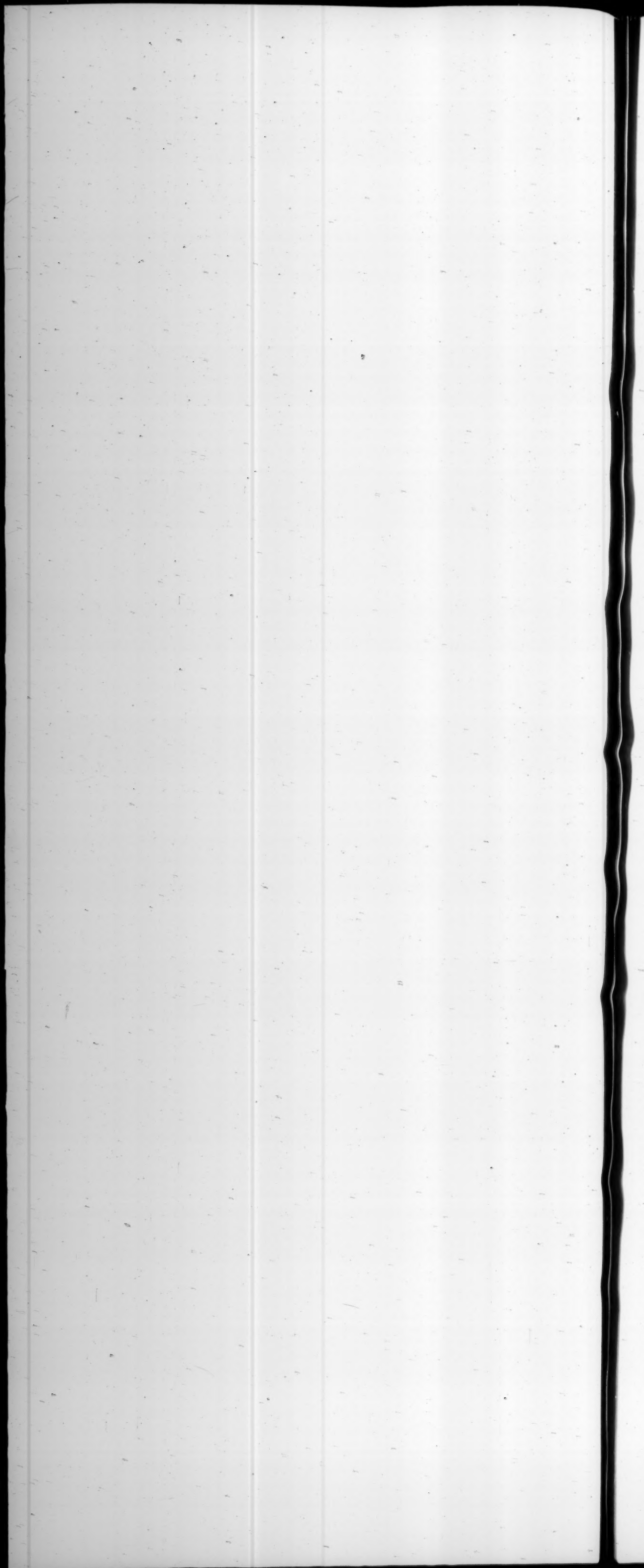


By the King.

A Proclamation concerning the making of Starch.



Hereas vpon complaints made, and often renewed vnto Vs, of the great inconueniences which happen by the conuerting of great quantities of wheate, Flower, Beale, & other things fit for the food of man, into the making of Starch, and by the making of Starch in places vnfit and inconuenient, whereby vnfauourie smells and noysome stenchies arise, to the great annoyauce of our louing Subjects inhabiting neere vnto, or passing by these places: We out of Our Princely care to haue a due reformation of these inconueniences, wherein the Common wealth hath so great an interest, haue heretofore by our seuerall Proclamations commanded such directions to be obserued, as vpon mature, and deliberate consideration, wee conceiued might best tend to these ends: And yet through wilfulnesse of diuers of the Starchmakers, wee haue hitherto failed of Our hopes and desires, and the mischiefs haue the rather increased through Our lenity. Now hauing lately receiued an humble petition from diuers of the Starch-makers themselves, whereby they haue benee humble suitors vnto Us, that if wee would vouchsafe by our Letters Patents, to incorporate them into a body politique, to haue a perpetuall succession, and thereby to enable them, by the helpe of good Lawes and ordinances, to gouerne the members of their owne body, that they would not onely submit themselves, but would also be answerable vnto Us, for such a reformation to follow, as should ease Us from further complaints: Wee conceiuing this to be the most probable meanes for reformation, or to leaue them without excuse, which will not be reformed, haue benee graciously pleased to incorporate the Starch-makers, and to giue them such power for their gouernement as they did reasonably desire. And the Starch-makers on their parts, haue vndertaken vnto Us, that they, nor any member of their body, will at any time hereafter, make any Starch, of wheate, Flower, Beale, or other thing prohibited, but will make the same of Pollard, and Branne onely, and sell the same at and for reasonable prices: And that they will not set vp, or maintaine any Starch-house, or vse the making of any Starch in any places, which by the vnfit situation thereof, or by the ill ordering thereof, may be an annoyauce to others, and that if all others might be prohibited to make Starch to put to sale, who should not submit themselves to become members of their body, and consequently be subiect to their gouernment: That then they would with the vttermoost of their indeauours, discover all such offenders, and draw them into a way to be proceeded against for their contempts according to Justice, in such sort as wee should direct. Wee therefore calling to mind, that the prices of Corne are now growne to much higher rates, then in these latter and cheaper yeeres the same were at, and perceiuing that of late many Tradesmen out of a greedy desire of game, though with the hurt of the Common wealth, haue taken vpon them to be Starch-makers, and left their former Trades, and Occupations, haue resolved to haue an effectuall reformation of the abuses aforesaid, and constantly to put Our directions for that purpose into execution: And to the end that what the Starch-makers haue vndertaken on their parts to performe, may be indeede really performed, wee haue constituted & appointed a Surueior, who shall be Our sworn Officer, and seruant to that purpose, to ouersee the same in euery part. Now to the end that all Our louing Subjects may take knowledge of Our Royall pleasure herein, wee doe by this Our present Proclamation straitly charge and command, that no person, or persons whatsoeuer, other then such as are, or shall bee members of the said company of Starch-makers, shall presume to attempt, or goe about, to make any Starch at all.



That no person whatsoever, which shall make any Starch, shall make the same of wheate, flower, Peale, or other thing then Pollard, and Branne onely.

That no person whatsoever, shall set up, maintaine, or vse any Starch-house, or any vessell for the making of Starch, in any place, which for the situation thereof, either in respect of the neerenesse thereof to any City or Towne, or other dwellings, or in regard of the neerenes to any common high way, roade, or ordinary passage of people, is, or shall appeare to be noysome to any other.

That no Grocer, Chapman, or other person who vseth to buy Starch to sell againe, shall buy, vtter, sell, or otherwise barter, or vent any Starch, which they shall know to haue bene made by any person, who is not a known member of the said company of Starch makers, soe as alwayes the Starch-makers shall be ready to sell the same, at and for such reasonable prices, as the said company haue by their Indenture vnder their common seale undertaken, and agreed to sell the same.

That no person presume to sell any Starch as a Huckster, or Hawker, from doore to doore, in priuate, or secret, or otherwise then in their owne proper and open Shops, or Warehouses.

And our Will and pleasure is, that if any person shall offend hereafter in any of the premises, or in giuing ayde or assistance to any the said offenders, directly, or indirectly, that our Commissioners which we hereafter shall to that purpose authorize, for the ready heareing, and dispatch of all complaints touching the premises, shall heare and examine all the complaints which shall be made against any such offenders, & shall inflict such punishment vpon such offenders, by imprisonment, or otherwise, as our said Commissioners in their wisdomes shall thinke fitt, hauing respect vnto the quality of the offences. And if our said Commissioners, shall in their good discretions finde any, whose offence, or misdemeanour, deserueth to bee made more exemplary, our pleasure and command is, that such offenders shall vndergoe the censure, and severity of our Court of Star-chamber, for the contempt of our Prerogative Royall, in a matter of such consequence, touching the good and benefit of our people. And to the end our Pleasure and Command herein, may be the better effected, we doe hereby straitly charge and commaund, all and singular Iustices of Peace, Maiors, Sheriffes, Bailiffes, Constables, Headbouroughes, and all other our Officers, and Subiectes whatsoever, whensoever any complaints shall be brought vnto them or any of them, of or for any offence or misdemeanour committed within the limits of their severall Jurisdictions, at all times, and from time to time, to be ayding and assisting to such as shall at any time be employed, in or about the execution of this our Ordinance, and carefully & diligently to doe their vttermost indeauour, that this our Royall command herein signified and expresse, be in all points duely performed; and that they doe not suffer any person or persons whatsoever, within any of their precincts, from and after the publication of this our Proclamation, to make or cause to bee made, directly or indirectly, any Starch in any other manner, or in any other place, or places, within this our Realme of England, Dominion of Wales, or Port, or Towne of Warwicke, then by such persons, and in such manner, and in such places, as are herein directed and intended; but that they vse their vttermost powers and indeauours, by all lawfull meanes, to hinder and suppress the same. And our further Will and Command is, that not onely our said Commissioners, which are or shall bee appointed by vs to this purpose, but also all other our Iustices of Peace, Maiors, Sheriffes, Bailiffes, and other our chiefe Officers, in all the parts of our Realme of England, and Dominion aforesaid, and Port and towne of Warwicke, when the nature and quality of the offence and contempt shall appeare, to deserue a more exemplary punishment as aforesaid, shall cause all and every the offenders against any Branch, Article, or part of this our Royall Proclamation, to be bound with sureties in good bonds to our vse, for their appearance before vs and our Pruy Counsell, in our Court of Star-chamber, there to answer their contempts; And if they, or any of them, shall refuse to enter into such bonds, then to commit every person so offending vnto prison, there to remaine vntill further order by vs, and our Counsell, shall be taken for their enlargement and release.

Giuen at our Mannor of Theobalds this sixteenth day of May, in the twentieth yeere of our Reigne of England, France, and Ireland, and of Scotland the five and fiftieth.

God saue the King.

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M. D. C. XXII.